

**Continuation of the 29 March Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held 15 April 1996 at 2:00 p.m. In H-769.**

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Ms. J. Chegrinec, Secretary; Mr. R. Côté, Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Siano; Ms. D. Cooper; Ms. C. Sbrocchi; Prof. B. Barbieri; Mr. A. Feldman; Ms. A. Coombs; Mr. S. Zacharias; Mr. N. Baidoun; Mr. K. Lowther, Mr. J.-F. Plamondon; Dr. R. Bonin; Mr. L. Lipscombe; Mr. R. MacIver.

Absent: Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. E. Robinson; Mr. D. Ellison; Ms. L. Kuilman; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Ms. K. Hedrich; Ms. L. Prendergast; Ms. A. Vroom (C. Hedrich).

Delegates: Ms. A. Ghadban, for Ms. A. Kerby.

Dr. Boisvert continued the meeting by giving some general comments on the revised budget. The revisions include the projected orientation support; changes in Counselling & Development, Recreation & Athletics and the Vice-Rector, Services budget were indicated. The budget previously allocated for the Writing Assistance Program had been transferred to the Associate Vice-Rector, Services budget. This was in keeping with the instructions of Council. As Council had requested copies were distributed of the current budget, the appended covering memorandum and the adjusted budget.

Mr. Zarins distributed a document on the impact of the reductions along with his revised budget. This budget reinstated the \$40,000 which had been deducted for six sports. These sports have now been re-instated at their full funding as instructed by Council.

Mr. Feldman asked why the ski team had a 0 budget. Evidently the sport had never been funded since it has always raised its own monies.

Dr. Graub said that \$39,959 had been transferred to the Associate Vice-Rector's budget for the Writing Assistants' Program. To contribute to the Student Services' deficit the Department had reduced some Counsellors from 12 months to 10 months. There was also a reduction in the Career Library book budget. There were no questions for Dr. Graub.

Mr. Baidoun requested a 10 minute break for student representatives to caucus, then he asked that Council go into a committee of the whole. This was agreed to by Council.

Mr. Feldman asked for clarification of the \$100,000 JEP costs. Dr. Boisvert explained that Student Services had received \$250,000 a year from the University to fund the costs of the Job Evaluation Program adjustments. Last year this amount was cut by \$150,000. This year it will be cut by \$100,000. Next year no JEP funds will be received

from the University.

Mr. Feldman asked for a breakdown of the Associate Vice-Rector's budget. Dr. Boisvert explained that this is a holding budget and was explained on the last page of the original budget. This budget covers such items as memberships, the Student Services Festival costs, special requests, etc. Mr. Feldman asked what type of activities would suffer because of the reduction in funds to this budget. The response was research into student life issues, perhaps the publication of the brochures. Mr. Zarins pointed out that the 3-year report was now being done by staff as opposed to hiring a student.

Mr. Plamondon expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that this meeting was being held during exam period. Dr. Boisvert apologized, but verified that Council had been aware of the schedule when it chose this time and the issue of exams wasn't raised. Mr. Plamondon then asked where the IEAC monies had gone to. Dr. Boisvert explained that the daycare, IEAC, Job Band & Off Campus Housing allocation had been cut in half. This year each will receive half of their traditional operating budgets. The remainder has been absorbed by the Initiative Fund. He also suggested that the \$20,000 from ACC may also be put into this fund if CCSL decides to give additional funds to these groups.

Mr. Côté asked for speaking privileges for Mr. Melkonian and Mr. Assad Zakla. Mr. Feldman asked for continued speaking privileges for Mr. Carruthers. Council agreed.

Mr. Zakla spoke on behalf of the IEAC. He asked Council to reconsider the decision to cut their operating budget by \$16,000, for 1996-97. He distributed a breakdown of the operating costs of the Council and provided a history. He then asked for a 1-year transition period to adjust to the cut.

Mr. Zacharias asked if the money from the Affinity program couldn't be used to bolster the funding for these groups.

Dr. Boisvert corrected some points in the history of IEAC. He explained that it was felt that Council should have more determination in how it allocates student funds. In the present situation there is no accountability or reporting structure in place.

Mr. Plamondon asked for speaking privileges for Ms. H. Lynch, Director, Garderiere Concordia. Council agreed. Ms. Lynch told Council that she had not been informed that there was any consideration being given to cutting the funding by half for the 1996-97 fiscal year. Her first indication was a letter she received at 12:30 on 12 April from Ms. A. Kerby. The information was received after the budget for the daycare had been prepared and approved by its board. The daycare has no way of recouping these funds except through raising fees. She said the daycare services 75 - 100

students per week.

Dr. Boisvert referred members to page 4 of the budget document. This indicated that the subsidy to the daycare wasn't related to student places. Mr. Plamondon expressed alarm that the cuts seem to be occurring without consultation with affected parties. There also does not appear to have been any process undertaken to find alternative solutions besides cutting funding. Dr. Boisvert said that the meetings of Council are the discussion. He pointed out that the budget contained recommendations and it was up to Council to make the final decisions and advise the Directors on what the priorities were.

Mr. Feldman said that he had asked Ms. Kerby both at Council and outside of Council if these cuts would have an adverse effect on the daycare. Evidently Ms. Kerby had assured him that they would not. Ms. Lynch was now saying that the cuts would have a dramatic impact on the service. He also asked why the daycare wasn't advised earlier that cuts were being considered so they could have considered this when preparing their budget.

Mr. Melkonian, President of IEAC, then spoke. He admitted that IEAC has never submitted budgets or proposals to Council. They had never been asked to do so. They were more than willing to provide this information to Council whenever required. He asked Council to consider the impact that the IEAC has on other institutions in the larger Montreal community. Also, IEAC has close ties with numerous CEGEPS and as such is an important recruiting segment for the University.

Mr. Feldman commented on the process. He said that if what Council has before it is a series of recommendations it was still unprofessional not to inform the groups prior to debate at Council. He said that he didn't feel that the budget could be debated and revised at today's meeting. Dr. Boisvert asked about the special initiative fund that was discussed and agreed to at the last meeting. Mr. Feldman responded that he felt they had been given false information by Ms. Kerby. Ms. Ghadban said that the daycare was a service where students could have their fees covered by financial aid.

Dr. Boisvert explained that the original subsidy was given to guarantee places to students. The original intent was to save a set number of places for the children of students. Ms. Lynch confirmed that these places were reserved. Mr. Côté said that the nature of the support had changed. The reasons for the original subsidy have been met. Continued support would be for different reasons.

Prof. Barbieri asked why the daycare had originally received \$25,000, then in the late 1980's this amount was raised, unconditionally, to \$50,000. Ms. Ghadban said that this decision had been made with little discussion, but students would continue to use the service because they receive financial aid. She said that if the fees were

raised that this should not have any effect on the number of students which would continue to use the service.

A break was taken at 3:15. Reconvened at 3:30.

Mr. Lowther felt the need for more discussion on the budget. He felt the major problem was in the process of the budget preparation. Mr. Zacharias agreed, and suggested that students had not had any dialogue with the Directors outside of the CCSL forum. He suggested that for the next budget process the dialogue start a lot earlier. Dr. Boisvert acknowledged that more and earlier involvement was necessary.

Mr. Feldman asked for speaking privileges for Mr. Samman.

Dr. Boisvert pointed out that the CCSL had requested that the Directors submit a budget for consideration. He asked what Council wished to do at this point. Mr. Côté suggested that the budget be accepted with caveats as to the sensitive points.

Mr. Zacharias asked that a motion be passed that for the next budget cycle that whenever the process begins for the Directors that student involvement be included. Dr. Boisvert said that he will deal with new motions later.

Mr. Côté asked for clarification on what points are tenuous. Mr. Feldman responded that it was the overall direction of the budget. That this should be an interim budget not a transitional one. That no significant changes should be considered until the next 3-year budget cycle is introduced. He agrees that Council has to look at how funding is given and question these practices, but this budget should remain as a status quo until the Review document has been tabled.

Dr. Boisvert said that the only areas that referred to the Review were the Dean of Students and Recreation & Athletics. He did state that he had shared with the Directors some of the emerging discussion of the Review, as was necessary for budget preparation.

Mr. Côté said that a status quo budget couldn't be finance without a fee increase. The Directors felt that this was not an option. Mr. Feldman said that personally he wasn't opposed to a minimal fee increase. He also said that he couldn't endorse an increase without going to the students, and this should have happened a month ago. Mr. Zacharias said that wasn't an option, the decision had to be made today. He argued that one of the strongest areas of the University was its ethnic diversity, if a fee increase was necessary to sustain this for another year then he would consider it. Mr. Lowther said that he would prefer to use all the ACC monies to support the daycare and IEAC.

Mr. Zarins suggested that a compromise could be reached. Take funds from other available sources along with a negligible fee increase, then the budget could be passed with caveats. Mr. Plamondon suggested that instead of a fee increase that a 1 - 2% cut across the board be implemented. Mr. Côté remarked on the merit of these two suggestions and asked that they be considered before any decision is made.

Mr. Feldman expressed his concern that the ACC monies were supposed to fund new initiatives, not subsidize the operating budget of Student Services.

Mr. Zarins asked the Treasurer of the Garderiere if the daycare could afford to make the cuts. She responded that she hadn't had time yet to examine the full impact. Mr. Melkonian said that he would support a fee increase if the services remained status quo for this year.

Mr. Feldman suggested the following: 1. That the ACC monies be left alone; 2. That a 10 cent per credit fee increase be introduced; 3. That the monies raised be put into the Special Initiative Fund. Mr. Côté said that if the students would support a fee increase at the Board of Governors an additional \$50,000 could be put into the fund. Mr. Zacharias supported Mr. Feldman's suggestion, and asked that it be specified that the fee increase is for one year. Mr. Zarins said another caveat should be that Council meet with the IEAC and discuss future funding, the same meeting would be held with the daycare.

Mr. Feldman reiterated that the \$50,000 be put into a trust that, after a larger debate, would be allocated as per the decision of Council.

Mr. Zarins moved that Council go out of committee of the whole. He proposed the following motion:

That the Student Services fee be increased to cover the budget cuts, and, that additional revenue be held in trust.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Feldman with the following amendments:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Services fee be increased by ten cents per credit, and; Vote: In Favour - 10. Opposed - 2. Absentions - 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED an additional \$48,700 be placed in trust for the Student Life Initiative Fund.

Council agreed to a vote: In Favour - 10. Opposed 4. Abstentions - 2.

Dr. Boisvert said that IEAC would have to apply to Council for the additional \$16,000. Mr. Melkonian asked what the criteria were for applying. Mr. Côté said that

criteria would be tabled at the next meeting of Council.

Mr. Lowther said that if the money is being brought back into the budget it should go back to the groups whose funding was cut. Mr. Feldman said that this way Council now has some time to discuss and decide about the funding to these three groups. He agrees that the rationale for the original funding no longer exists. He asked that at the next meeting of Council the budgets for these groups be examined and decided upon, and the groups be advised. This will give them time to prepare any proposals necessary to request funds for September.

The question was called. Delay the decision on the trust fund until the next meeting where Council will debate the implications. All in favour - 10. Opposed - 4. Abstentions - 0.

That the proposed budget for 1996-97 be accepted as adjusted with an increase in the Student Services fee. All in favour - 10. Opposed - 4. Abstentions - 0.

Mr. Zacharias moved that Council create a Standing Budget Committee. It was suggested that this motion be tabled until the next meeting. All in favour - 5. Opposed 1. Abstentions - 8.

b) Other New Business: Mr. Feldman asked what steps had been taken in regards to the motion on the Centennial Building. Dr. Boisvert responded that he had spoken with Dr. Barlow and he will be speaking to Dr. Bertrand before it goes to the Office of the Rector.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of Council will be held 15 May at 10:00 a.m. Room to be announced. The Final report of the Review Committee will be tabled.

10. Termination of Meeting:

On a motion by Mr. Zacharias, seconded by Mr. Baidoun, the meeting terminated at 5:00 p.m.